

Attorney Docket # - 10010472-1

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiroshima *et al.* (U.S.P.N. 6,426,725).

Claims 13 -20 were allowed. Claims 5-12 and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C.102(e) – claims 1, 2, and 4

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiroshima *et al.* (U.S.P.N. 6,426,725).

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been deleted.

Claims 5-12 and 21

The limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims have been incorporated into claims 5-12 and 21. Claims 5-12 and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner has any further questions or would like to discuss this application in more detail, he is invited to call the applicant's agent at the telephone number given below. The applicant respectfully suggests that the claims presently in the application are distinct over the prior art and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicant solicits favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patent Reg. No. 36,184

December 18, 2003
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